

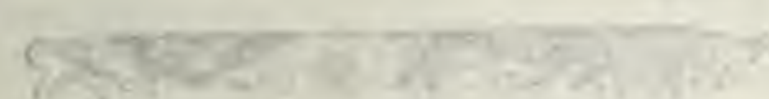
THE
REVOLUTION

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I have been thinking of you very much lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you. I have been thinking of you very much lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you.





"THE BOSTON MASSACRE"

(British Troops Fire Upon American Citizens)

From the series on American history by Alonzo Chappell

IN one way the French and Indian War was responsible for England's loss of her colonies in the American Revolution; for the disputes between the hitherto loyal colonies and the British parliament arose as a result of the successful French and Indian War. England awoke to the wealth and power of the colonies, and began to plan to make money from them. This led to disputes, bitter ill-feeling, and finally to the positive announcement of the Americans' doctrine, that parliament could not tax them unless they had representatives of their own in that body to act for them and join in the government of the British Empire, that "Taxation without representation is tyranny."

British troops were sent to overawe the colonists, who felt that they were being ruled by force, as slaves. Most of the soldiers were sent to Boston, which was the chief center of revolt, as Massachusetts had always been the most independent colony. Between these troops and the Boston citizens there was constant wrangling. One evening in the year of 1770 a party of soldiers were followed by a mob who assailed them with sticks and stones, until in self-defense the soldiers defended themselves with their muskets, firing a volley which killed three of their assailants. This rather disgraceful mob affair was called the "Boston Massacre." It severed the ancient bond of brotherhood between the colonists and the native Englishmen.







THE BOSTON TEA PARTY

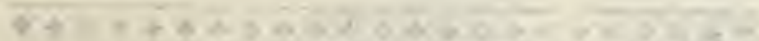
The Boston Tea Party, December 16, 1773.

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The Boston Tea Party, December 16, 1773. The Boston Tea Party was a protest against British taxation without representation. On December 16, 1773, a group of Bostonians, known as the Sons of Liberty, boarded the tea ships in Boston Harbor and dumped the tea into the water. This act of defiance led to the passage of the Coercive Acts by the British Parliament, which further angered the colonists and led to the outbreak of the American Revolution.

The Boston Tea Party was a significant event in the history of the United States. It was a protest against British taxation without representation. On December 16, 1773, a group of Bostonians, known as the Sons of Liberty, boarded the tea ships in Boston Harbor and dumped the tea into the water. This act of defiance led to the passage of the Coercive Acts by the British Parliament, which further angered the colonists and led to the outbreak of the American Revolution.

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THE BOSTON "TEA-PARTY"

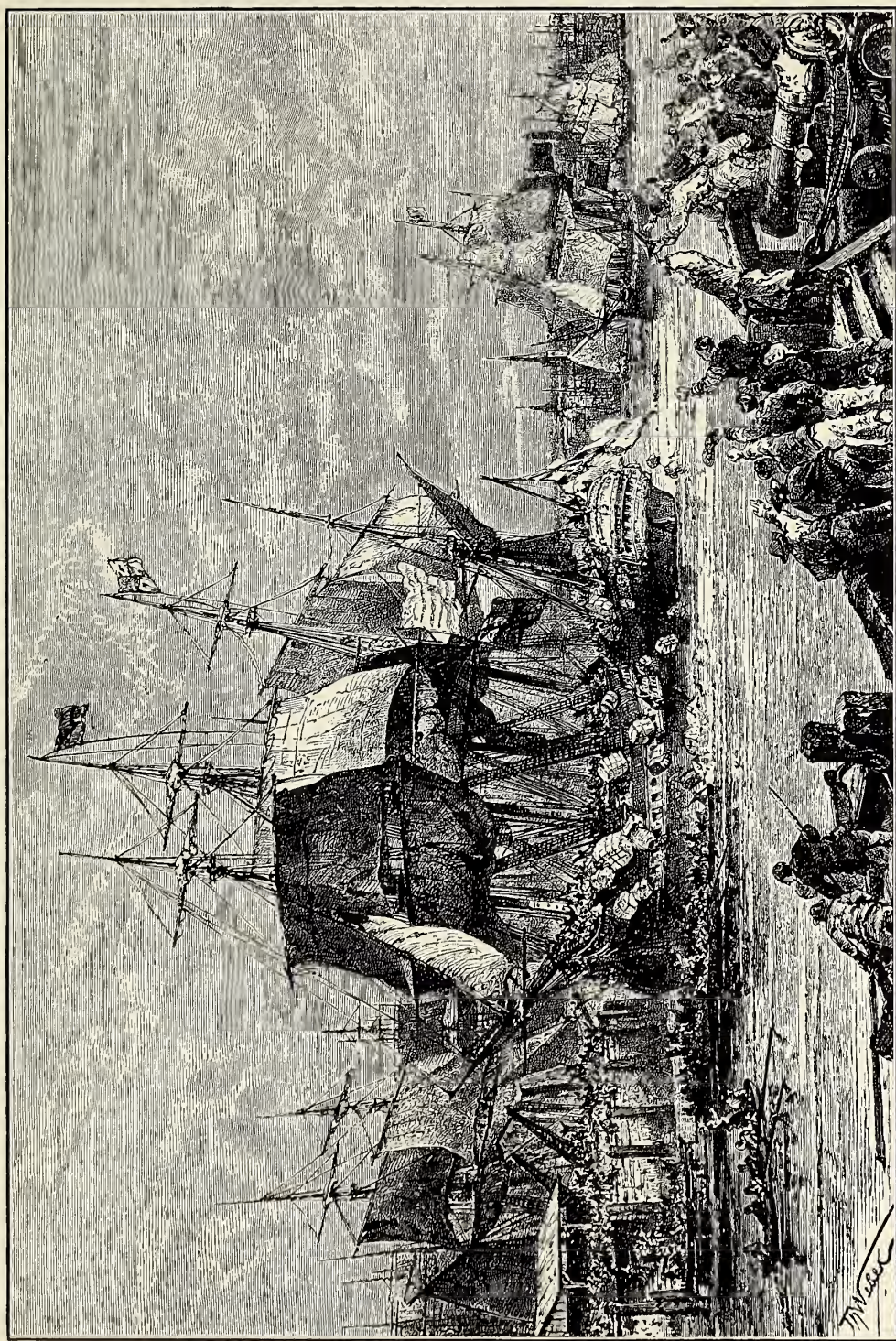
(The Bostonians Make Open Resistance to English Taxation)


From a drawing by the American artist, Thomas Weber

THE American colonies were so far removed from England that, when they were all united in resistance to any law, its enforcement became almost impossible. England could not possibly keep an army in every American city, as she did in Boston. Hence after years of effort and quarreling the attempt to raise money by the taxation of the colonies was abandoned. The British Parliament, however, and even more vehemently the British monarch, George III, were determined to insist upon the principle of taxation. So they remitted all the taxes except one, the tax on tea, and this was made very low.

The contest was thus narrowed to a single issue: Would the Americans, by paying the tiny tea tax admit the government's right of taxation? They did not. Indeed, several of the colonies refused even to let the tea-ships land their tea at all. In Boston the defiance was made spectacular. A large number of representative citizens disguised themselves as Indians and made a raid on the tea ships. Hauling out all the tea chests, the Indians broke them open and emptied their contents into the harbor, while thousands of other Bostonians cheered them on. This was the "Boston tea-party." The English government was infuriated. Other cities were just as guilty as Boston in their treatment of the tea; but Boston, as the usual center of rebellion, was made to bear the whole weight of punishment.







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THE HISTORY OF THE BOSTON CHILDREN

THE HISTORY OF THE BOSTON CHILDREN, FROM THEIR FIRST SETTLEMENT IN 1630, TO THE PRESENT TIME.

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PROTEST OF THE BOSTON CHILDREN
(They Complain to General Gage Against His Soldiers' Oppression)
From a painting by the American artist, Henry Bacon

ENGLAND'S parliament punished the Bostonians for their "tea-party" by passing a series of wholly arbitrary laws, which England's own patriots opposed vehemently in parliament. All ships were forbidden to enter Boston's harbor. The whole colony of Massachusetts was placed under military law, the soldiers there being authorized to do anything they saw fit, their commander, General Gage, being made Governor of Massachusetts. The Bostonians instead of being crushed were more determined than ever to resist tyranny to the uttermost. How firmly their minds were fixed on freedom is illustrated by the well-known story here pictured. Even the children of Boston had caught the spirit of their elders. Some of the British soldiers wanted to use the ground where the boys were in the habit of coasting; so they drove the boys away and when the youngsters persisted in returning, the soldiers broke their sleds. Thereupon the boys, in solemn imitation of their elders, appointed a committee which visited General Gage to protest against this new instance of encroaching tyranny. Governor Gage heard the boys with all solemnity, and assured them that their ancient right to the coasting ground should be respected.

Every one began to see clearly that between parties so bitterly opposed, so firmly determined, and so constantly clashing, the only possible issue would be an appeal to arms.







THE HISTORY OF CONCORD
The History of Concord, Mass., from its first settlement to the present time.
By J. W. Alden.

With an introduction by the Rev. J. W. Alden, D.D., of the University of Cambridge, Mass., and a preface by the Rev. J. W. Alden, D.D., of the University of Cambridge, Mass.

The history of Concord, Mass., from its first settlement to the present time, is a subject of great interest to the people of this town. It is a town of great antiquity, and its history is full of interesting incidents. The first settlement was made in 1635, and the town has since that time been a part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The history of Concord is a history of the growth of a town from a small settlement to a large and important city. It is a history of the struggles and triumphs of a people who have made their mark on the history of the Commonwealth. The history of Concord is a history of the growth of a town from a small settlement to a large and important city. It is a history of the struggles and triumphs of a people who have made their mark on the history of the Commonwealth.

CONCORD, MASS., 1850.



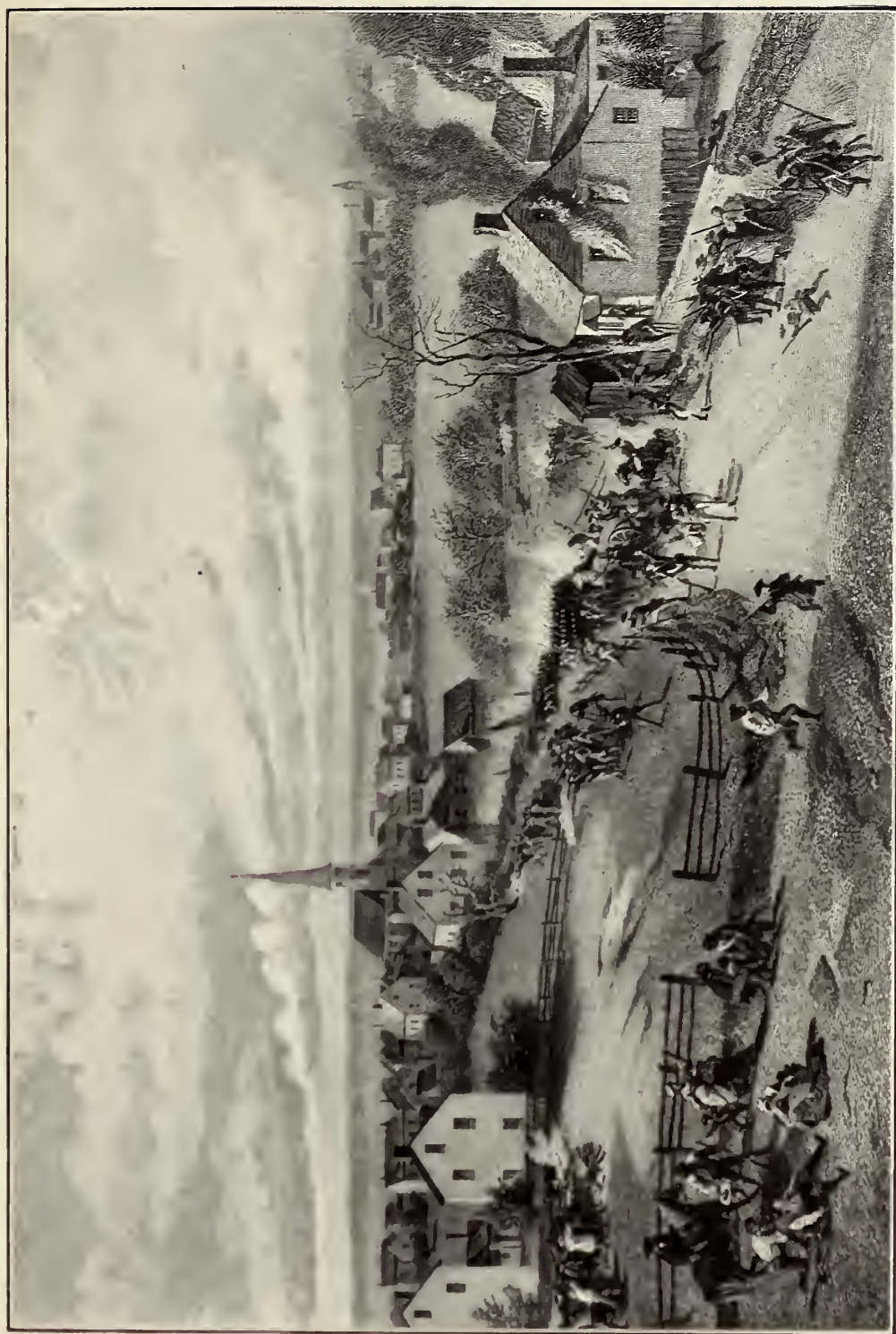
THE RETREAT FROM CONCORD

(The Despised Americans Make the British Soldiers Run)

From the historical series by Alonzo Chappell

HOW the great war for American freedom actually started, is known to everyone. The American patriots of Massachusetts had gathered powder and other military stores, so as to fight if necessary. A British force of soldiers was sent out from Boston to destroy the munitions thus collected at the little town of Concord. The farmers along the route were warned, and hastened toward Concord. A few of them at Lexington were fired on by the British and slain, being thus the first victims of the war. At Concord the British accomplished the object of their expedition, before the farmers could assemble in sufficient numbers to stop them; but by the time the soldiers began their march back toward Boston, the whole country-side was roused against them. There was little military organization among the farmers; but they had seen their friends and neighbors shot down at Lexington and Concord, and each man found what shelter he could and fired on the retreating Britons. These, when they saw an enemy, stopped and fired. But when they charged the farmers disappeared, only to return and shoot again. Soon the hail of bullets became deadly; scores of the soldiers fell; their retreat became a flight. At length they ran, as one of their own officers tells us, "with tongues hanging out of their mouths," and so got back to Boston. In this "Concord fight" the British soldiers lost nearly three hundred men, thrice as many as did the despised farmers. The English never attempted another military raid.







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The Last Place of the World (The British Empire)



BUNKER HILL

(The Last Stand of the Half-Armed Americans Against the British Charge)

From the historical series by Alonzo Chappell

THIS "Concord fight" fully roused the American colonists to the necessity of war. Men from all New England began marching toward Boston to join in the resistance to the Britons. Soon the city was encircled by an army of farmers undrilled, poorly armed, but larger in numbers and far more resolute of spirit than the famed British soldiers who were shut within the capital. Some fifteen hundred of the farmer soldiers hastily entrenched themselves on Bunker Hill under Colonel Prescott and Dr. Warren, two enthusiastic patriot leaders. The hill overlooked the city, so the English general sent about three thousand of his best troops to storm the rough entrenchments.

Bunker Hill thus became the site of the first pitched battle of the Revolution. It was a revelation to kings and generals, because it showed that the despised American farmers were the best fighters in the world. Three times the heavy British column charged up the hill. Twice the deadly fire of the Americans drove the enemy back in confusion. At the third charge the Americans had exhausted their ammunition, and had no weapons left to match the British bayonets. They could only use their muskets as clubs. Such resistance was madness, yet many of the farmers stayed and fought, sooner than retreat. Thus over four hundred of them were killed in this hopeless struggle; but the Britons lost twice as many. Hence the battle conveyed to every one a suggestion of ultimate American victory.





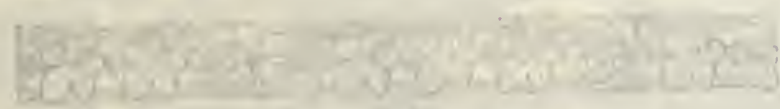


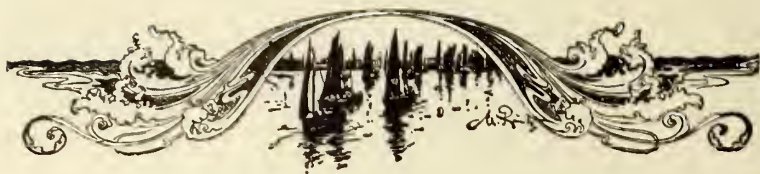
THE LIFE OF SAMUEL JOHNSON

BY JAMES BOSWELL, ESQ. IN TWO VOLUMES. LONDON: PRINTED BY A. MILLAR, IN ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD, 1791.

THE first of these volumes contains the life of the author, and the second the life of the author's wife. The first volume is divided into two parts, the first part containing the life of the author, and the second part containing the life of the author's wife. The second volume is divided into two parts, the first part containing the life of the author's wife, and the second part containing the life of the author's wife. The first volume is divided into two parts, the first part containing the life of the author, and the second part containing the life of the author's wife. The second volume is divided into two parts, the first part containing the life of the author's wife, and the second part containing the life of the author's wife.

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ENGLAND'S SHAME

(Hessian Troops Torn From Their Homes and Sold to Fight the Americans)

From a painting by the German artist, Ferdinand Leek

NO understanding of the American Revolution is possible unless we appreciate the conditions in England which shaped the conduct of the war. King George III in fighting the Americans was antagonizing a large portion of his British subjects also. He was trying to make himself an absolute king, to compel parliament to bow to his will at home while Americans bowed to it abroad. The "Whig" party in England approved the course of the colonists in their resistance to tyranny. Thus the king, when he insisted on punishing the colonists, had great difficulty in gathering soldiers. Ultimately he sent to Germany, the home of his ancestors, and there hired troops, like cattle, at so much per head, to fight the Americans.

Most of these hired soldiers came from the province of Hesse, where the people were so trampled down by tyranny that they dared not rebel, but could only look on in despair while the flower of their young men were thus marched off to fight in a cause in which they had no real part or interest. In America the coming of these hired "Hessians," the attempt to crush the colonies merely by weight of money and of hired brutality, so roused the people that all thought of patching up their difficulties with England was abandoned. Discontent with the grasping British policies, hardened into hatred of the brutal British rulers. The rebellion became a revolution, a warfare to the death.







JULY FOURTH, 1776

(The Signing of the Declaration of Independence)

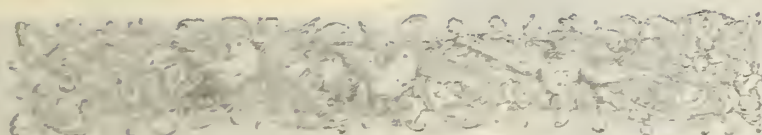
From the painting of the French artist, Charles Dumaresque

WHEN the question of armed resistance to Great Britain first came under discussion, the American colonists all saw that their only chance of successful action depended upon their holding together. A "Colonial Congress" therefore gathered in Philadelphia, consisting of delegates from all the colonies. Hence while Great Britain was really fighting against thirteen little separate nations which had never held any close relation or dependence upon one another, these thirteen found a crude way of uniting and acting as a single power. All through the war, however, the Americans were handicapped by the weakness of this central guiding force. The "Continental Congress," as it came to be called since it represented the union of a continent, had no power by which it could compel obedience. Generally the individual colonies obeyed its commands; but more than once they refused to do so, and the Congress was helpless.

Its chief deed and glory was the issuance of the Declaration of Independence. A year of fighting had brought the Americans to the point of such bitterness against England and such confidence in themselves that they were resolved never to have any further connection with their cruel mother land. So Thomas Jefferson prepared the formal document asserting American independence. John Hancock, of Massachusetts, the president of the Congress, was the first to sign it, and all the other members of the Congress followed him.







AMERICA'S FRIEND

1890





AMERICA'S FRIEND

(Lafayette Offers Washington His Aid in the Cause of Liberty)

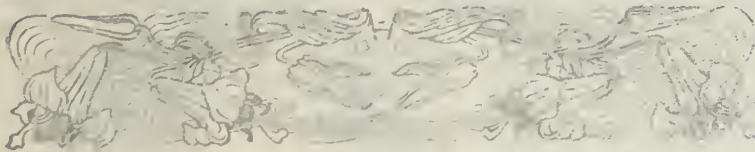
From a painting by the Italian artist, A. Gatti

AT the opening of the Revolution the Americans gained some minor successes. They placed their armies in the hands of their foremost soldier, Washington, and he drove the Britons from Boston. Soon, however, the lack of vigorous united action among the colonies had its natural effect. Each colony cared little about the war so long as its own ports were not attacked, and Washington had great difficulty in holding any army together at all. The English captured the two great cities of the Middle States, New York and Philadelphia, and made these their centers of operation against the other colonies.

Meanwhile, however, the persistent and enduring fight made by the colonists attracted the attention of Europe. England had many enemies there, and the cause of freedom many friends. If an untrained peasantry could thus hold mighty England at bay for a year and more, under the inspiration of liberty, then liberty might indeed be won against tyrants everywhere. The whole world felt the inspiring force of our unexpected strength of resistance. Foreign soldiers began to cross the Atlantic to give us what we so sorely needed, the aid of their military training. First and most beloved of these noble volunteers in the cause of liberty was the wealthy French enthusiast, Marquis de Lafayette, who fitted out a ship of war at his own expense and hastening to this country offered his aid to Washington.







VALLEY FÖRGE.

מחזורי חורף וקיץ



"VALLEY FORGE"

(Washington's Prayer at Valley Forge in America's Lowest Fortune)

From an old engraving

LAFAYETTE reached Washington's camp in the winter of 1777-78, just in time to see the cause of America sink to its lowest ebb. The British had captured Philadelphia, and spent the winter there in good shelter with ample supplies, enjoying social festivities. The Americans were encamped near by at Valley Forge. They had neither money nor shelter. The winter was cruelly severe, and many of the soldiers perished under their privations. Washington appealed desperately to Congress for supplies; but Congress, as we have seen, had no way of compelling the various colonies to give it money, and each colony clung to its own money for its own sore needs. So the "Continental Army" was left to starve.

It was in such times of trial as this that the true greatness of Washington stood forth most nobly. Somehow he managed to hold his army together. He forced some supplies from the surrounding country; he captured some from the British; he wrung some from the colonial government or the unhappy Congress. He kept his men alive. In the very darkest hour he threw himself upon the wisdom and mercy of his God. Going apart from his men he knelt in prayer. All that man might do, he had done, and would continue doing most steadfastly; the rest was in the hands of a higher power.

With the coming of spring in 1778 came the turning of the tide. Valley Forge marks the deepest moment of American dejection and defeat.

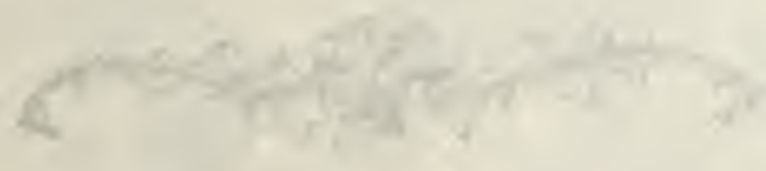






THE HISTORY OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON, FROM THE
FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME.

AND THE HISTORY OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON, FROM THE
FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME.
BY
JOHN H. COLEMAN, ESQ.
OF THE BOSTON BAR.
IN TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. I.
BOSTON: PUBLISHED BY
JOHN H. COLEMAN, ESQ.
OF THE BOSTON BAR.
1847.





THE WYOMING MASSACRE

(The Indians and Tories Overthrow the Little Army of the Settlers)

From the historical series by Alonzo Chappell

AFTER Valley Forge, the temper of the American people hardened to desperation everywhere. England, having abandoned the warfare in Massachusetts because of the fierce determination of resistance there, had hoped to conquer the Middle States, where there was less of resentment against her. She could thus isolate and crush New England. This course had seemed justified at first by her captures of New York and Philadelphia. But two brutal steps taken by King George's inhuman government roused the middle colonies to the same fury of defiance that New England had displayed. The first of these was the employment of the Hessians. The second was the employment of Indians, with whom the Britons entered into alliance and encouraged them to massacre the Americans.

Among the many hideous tragedies that resulted from this letting loose of the ferocious blood-lust of the Indians, was the massacre at Wyoming, the leading settlement in the upper valley of Pennsylvania's great river, the Susquehanna. Here, having defeated the tiny force gathered hastily against them, the Indians, led by an American Tory, massacred the Fort Wyoming garrison which had surrendered under promise of protection. The savages then continued for days their fiendish sport of murder and torture, until the entire region was emptied of human inhabitants.







FRANKLIN AT THE COURT OF FRANCE
The French Nobles and Philosophers Honor the American Philosopher
From a contemporary point

AMERICA'S only ally from the depths of antiquity
is now in alliance with France. France was the
first to open her arms to the American people, and
to recognize them as a nation. In the French mind
the American people were not a new people, but
the old people of the world, who had been
known to the French people for many years.
The French people had known the American people
for many years, and they had known them as
a people who were not only brave and brave,
but also wise and wise. The French people
had known the American people as a people
who were not only brave and brave, but also
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FRANKLIN AT THE COURT OF FRANCE

(The French Nobles and Philosophers Honor the Simplicity and Homely Wisdom of the American Philosopher)

From a contemporary print

AMERICA'S rally from the depths of suffering came chiefly from an alliance with France. France was England's chief rival in Europe, as she had been in America before her expulsion thence in the French and Indian War. Naturally therefore the rebellious colonies had sought French aid against England. France was willing to give this if the outcome was likely to bring her profit and revenge, but not if she was to reap disaster. Therefore the French court hung back, waiting to see if the colonies were really strong enough to be worth alliance. In the fall of 1777 the militia of New York met the invasion of an English army under General Burgoyne and not only repelled it but captured the entire invading force. This in itself might have had little influence upon France, but we had already sent to Paris as our envoy that remarkable genius Benjamin Franklin, and he knew well how to take advantage of Burgoyne's surrender in persuading the French king of our power.

Franklin had already become an extremely popular figure in Paris. The strong contrast between his simple, kindly ways and the elaborate yet empty courtesies of the French court, had impressed its members. They acknowledged that his wit and homely shrewdness made him a match for all their brilliancy and learning. They talked much in their "salons" of philosophy and liberty; but here was a philosopher and free-man who lived what they only talked.







MARION AND HIS MEN

(A Few Bands Hiding in the Marshes Uphold the Warfare Against the Britons in the South)

From a painting by the American artist, W. Ranney

ONE of the results of Franklin's visit was the sending of a French fleet to America's aid; and after this, the scene of fighting shifted to the southern colonies. Here the British captured Charleston, the principal city of the far south, and made it a center from which they conquered all the surrounding country. There was no regular army to withstand them, and they soon held all South Carolina and Georgia, and most of North Carolina as well. The only resistance that remained was offered by a few bands of determined patriots who hid in the swamps and forests, and from there made sudden raids against the British forces.

Most noted among the leaders of these guerilla bands was Francis Marion, the "swamp fox," as the English called him. He and his men hid amid the broad bayous of the Carolina coast. They knew every pathway of the marshes and had secret hiding spots to which they transported their horses and spoils by boat, disappearing when the British armies came after them in force, but always ready for attack on any smaller force. An English officer records that, being sent with a flag of truce to Marion, he found him sharing with his men as their only meal a few roughly baked potatoes. The comment became general among the British officials that so long as men were willing to live and eat as did Marion and his men, there was no possible way of conquering them or conquering America.





English Government had passed similar acts in regulation of imports earlier in the century, and the colonists had submitted to them. Now, however, they had been thoroughly roused, and, as we have seen, had taken their stand on the broad general principle that no one, without their consent, could tax them in any way. They renewed their non-importation agreements. As yet no one thought of actual rebellion. The colonists were Englishmen demanding their rights, just as Londoners might have done—and more than once had done.

The Massachusetts Legislature invited the other provinces to arrange with it for further measures of resistance to the new law. The infuriated King George declared that their letter was an invitation to treason; he commanded them to withdraw it, and when they refused, dismissed them from office. The other colonies promptly expressed sympathy for Massachusetts, and from this time forward she was regarded both in America and England as the leader in resistance to the King.

As an immediate punishment, the first regiments of the "quartering" army were sent to Boston. Their presence caused the earliest bloodshed in the long contest. Naturally, the townsfolk hated the "redcoats"; they were hooted in the streets; serious collisions occurred; and, finally, a little party of soldiers were compelled in self-defence to fire upon a mob that was assaulting them with sticks and stones and threatening them with death. Three men were killed by the volley and several wounded (May 5, 1770). In the excited state of the public mind, the victims were treated as martyrs. They were given a huge public funeral, and the affray was designated the "Boston massacre."

Far more serious in bloodshed, though perhaps less fraught with tremendous future consequences, was the fight at Alamance Creek. This occurred in North Carolina in 1771. The royal governor of the colony, "the Black Wolf" Tryon, was exacting taxes without the legislature's consent. The rough backwoodsmen formed a band of "Regulators" to resist his extortions, but they were defeated after a hard fight against his overwhelming forces. Some thirty men were slain, and several of the leading Regulators were hanged.

By this time the English merchants were suffering severely from the falling off in American trade. The colonists had held with remarkable firmness to their agreements to import nothing from England and to use no goods of English manufacture. American petitions against the tax bill of 1767 had proved of no effect, but when English requests were also made for its repeal, the Government wavered. The King's obstinacy, however, was by this time thoroughly roused. The money issue he abandoned; but the principle involved, as to England's right to lay duties on American imports, he would not surrender. The tax was removed from every article of import except tea, and the charge on that was made so slight as to seem trifling.

It is a lasting honor to the American colonists that they refused to accept this specious compromise. They also were fighting for the principle, not for the money involved. They continued their non-importation pledges, and tea became the burning question of the hour.

As the Americans refused to receive any tea, it rotted in English storehouses. Finally the King ordered several shiploads sent to the various American ports; and he remitted the English duties upon it, so that after paying the colonial tax it could still be sold there cheaper than in England, cheaper, indeed, than it had ever been before. This has been represented as a philanthropic effort on his part to save the tea companies from loss. Perhaps it was so; but to the Americans it seemed merely one more attempt to trap them into accepting taxation. Merchants were warned not to receive the tea; and it was quietly gotten rid of, stored in damp cellars where it rotted, or sent back to England.

Boston, however, had now a resolute governor determined to uphold the King's authority. He insisted that the tea sent there should be received and placed on sale. A monster mass meeting was held, and Samuel Adams, the fiery leader of the patriotic party, besought the governor not to drive them to extremes. He, however, stood firm; and Adams, rising before the people gathered in the "Old South Church," said solemnly: "This meeting can do nothing more to save the country."

"The country" in those days meant not America, but the united empire of England and America, and by his words Adams abandoned the hope of keeping them united through a peaceful settlement of their dispute. It was the first open threat of independence. It was, moreover, the signal to his impatient hearers to adopt forcible measures. That night a party of sixty citizens disguised as Indians swarmed on board the three tea-ships in the harbor and dumped their entire cargoes into the water (December 16, 1773).

Great was the triumph of the Bostonians, great the rage of the Governor, and greater still the anger of King and Parliament when the news reached England. Boston, already punished, had once more been the leader in disorder. To be sure, the tea had been everywhere refused, and a little later in Maryland the owner of the tea-ship "Peggy Stewart" was compelled to set fire to his property with his own hands, and stand by while both vessel and cargo burned to ashes. These facts, however, were overpassed, and revenge centred upon refractory Boston. A series of punitive measures were hastily passed, some of which far exceeded all authority either King or Parliament had ever claimed.

The Boston Port Bill closed that harbor to all vessels and removed the seat of government in Massachusetts to Salem. At the same time the colony was placed under military rule, and its charter was suspended. Other oppressive

measures were also enacted. The governor, as having been too mild, was removed, and General Gage, chief of the British forces already in America, was appointed military governor of Massachusetts.

These measures were carried through Parliament in the face of much opposition from the Whigs. There was no legal justification of the acts. The colonies had used force, and they were to be met by greater force. The pretext of law was thrown aside, and naked tyranny stood revealed. King George meant to have his way, not because he was right, but because he was the stronger.

Once more the other colonies expressed their sympathy and support for Massachusetts in her hour of trial; and in April, 1774, the "First Continental Congress" met at Philadelphia. Delegates were present from every colony except tiny Georgia, and they were a unit in their action. The Congress urged the various legislatures to pass non-importation laws strengthening the already existing agreements, and it drew up and forwarded to the King the celebrated "Declaration of Rights." In this document it was for the first time thought necessary to assure his Majesty that the colonists did not deny him as their sovereign. They did, however, deny very positively the right of Parliament to tax them, and they branded the acts against Massachusetts as unconstitutional and tyrannical.

It was no longer possible for men to be blind to the direction in which matters were drifting. Even the children of Boston caught the spirit of their elders, and sent a delegation to General Gage to complain of the "tyranny" of his soldiers in breaking their sleds and interfering with their coasting ground. The suppressed Massachusetts Legislature met in secret under its president, John Hancock, and authorized a militia of "minute men," so called because the men held themselves always ready to come to the defence of the colony at a minute's notice. Powder and military supplies were gathered. General Gage learned where some of these were stored at Concord, and sent out troops from Boston to destroy them. At the same time he planned to arrest both Hancock and Samuel Adams, the patriot leaders, who were at Lexington.

The midnight ride of Paul Revere warned the Massachusetts farmers of the coming of the redcoats, and the militia began gathering in every village. Hancock and Adams escaped from Lexington, but some of the militia stood upon its common when the British advance guard marched up. The commander ordered them to disperse. They hesitated; shots were fired; a volley rang out from the Britons; and eight of the "minute men" lay dead upon Lexington common (April 19, 1775). The survivors, to escape capture, took to flight, firing as they went.

At Concord the militia had gathered in greater numbers, but there were not yet enough of them to resist the advance of the column of eight hundred British regulars, who entered the town and destroyed most of the military stores. At last a little band of the farmers marched resolutely against a party of soldiers who were tearing down Concord Bridge. Both sides fired; men fell; and the Britons retreated. The commander of the column saw that the whole country was rapidly rising against him, and he started back for Boston.

The farmers followed. They had no weapons fitted to resist a British bayonet charge, but they had learned fighting from the Indians, and from behind every stone wall, every tree, they aimed their muskets at the marching column. Its men fell fast, and their orderly retreat soon became a flight. At last they fairly ran. Men dropped exhausted on the road and were left behind to be made prisoners. Their wagons could hardly bear the wounded, and not one of the column would have reached Boston had not a body of reinforcements, a thousand strong, met them on the road. After giving the exhausted fugitives a few minutes to recover, Lord Percy, the new commander, resumed the retreat, and, despite the resolute efforts of the Americans to stop him, finally reached Boston.

How many "minute men" were engaged in this running fight it is impossible to say, though at no point were they anything like so numerous as their foe. About a hundred of them were killed or wounded, while the British loss amounted to nearly thrice as many.

The last appeal in the long dispute, the appeal to the God of Battles, had been made! And it had begun triumphantly for the colonies. Massachusetts farmers had made the renowned British "regulars" run like sheep. The news sped as wildfire speeds. The other New England provinces hastened to make common cause with Massachusetts, and sent troops to her support. Soon there were twenty thousand men gathered around Gage's little army in Boston. The war of American Independence had begun!



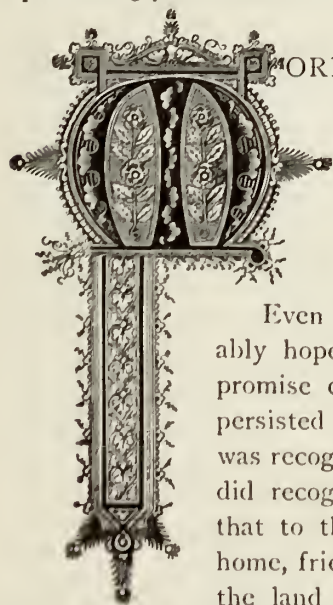


THE BOSTON TEA-PARTY

Chapter XI

THE REVOLUTION—INDEPENDENCE AND SUFFERING

[*Authorities:* Winsor, "Handbook of the Revolution"; Ludlow, "War of American Independence"; Lossing, "Fieldbook of the Revolution"; Carrington, "Battles of the Revolution"; Irving, "Washington"; Lodge, "Washington"; Goodloe, "Birth of the Republic"; Lossing, "The Two Spies"; Burgoyne's Narrative of His Campaign; Baroness Riedesel, "Memoirs."]



MORE than a year elapsed after the battle of Lexington before the Continental Congress took the decisive step of declaring our independence. Most Americans did not desire a separation from England. They loved and admired their mighty mother country, and only sought to be admitted to the British union as equals, instead of as submissive slaves.

Even after Lexington, a majority of the colonists probably hoped that England would relent, and that some compromise could be arranged. It was only as the quarrel was persisted in step by step, that the necessity for independence was recognized. Some very earnest and honorable men never did recognize it; and, setting their duty to the King above that to the colonies, became loyalists or "tories," sacrificing home, friends, and fortune, and finally departing as exiles from the land of their birth, rather than surrender what they conceived to be their honor. Other people of course were "tories" for the money and favor to be gained from the British; and it is not surprising that the mass of the American people made no distinction between the two classes, but hated a "tory" as a traitor.

It is well to bear in mind that in the Middle States and in the extreme

South there was quite a strong tory minority. Perhaps in Georgia it was a majority. Ignorant men can be roused to resist oppression only when they have undergone its personal effects, and England's tyranny had reached that acute stage only in North Carolina under the cruel Tryon, and at Boston. It is not, therefore, from the ignorant that the strength of the patriot cause was drawn, but from among thinking men, from New England, where every farmer was a scholar as well, and from Virginia and its surrounding States, where a highly cultivated aristocracy took up the cause with clear vision, and easily drew after them the dependent class accustomed to their guidance. "Give me liberty or give me death!" exclaimed Patrick Henry, foremost of our orators. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Lee—these were the men who led Virginia into the Revolution.

The royal governor of the province threatened to arm the rebels' slaves against them, to start a civil war which should destroy them. They defied him, and he fled to an English ship in the harbor and bombarded the city of Norfolk. He was the first royal governor to abandon his post. But others soon followed, and by the end of 1775, English government, except where upheld by English armies, had ceased in the colonies.

Meanwhile events followed fast upon the Lexington fight. On May 10, Colonel Ethan Allen of Vermont, at the head of only eighty-three men, took the fortress of Ticonderoga by surprise, and demanded its surrender.

"On what authority, sir?" protested the astonished commandant.

"In the name of the great Jehovah and the Continental Congress," thundered Allen. And this strong post, which had defied armies in the French and Indian War, was thus secured with all its military stores.

On that very day the "Second Continental Congress," to which Allen probably referred, held its opening meeting at Philadelphia. It remained in session until 1781, and was the central power that guided the colonies through the war. John Hancock, now a proscribed rebel, was elected its president; the military movements in the North were approved; it was voted to raise an army of twenty thousand men, and George Washington, on the suggestion of the New England delegates, was elected commander-in-chief.

Surprised and overwhelmed, Washington at first refused the office; but it was unanimously urged upon him, and after grave consideration he consented to accept it. In so doing, he deliberately sacrificed all the comforts of his happy and wealthy private life; he made himself in English eyes the foremost of the rebels, the man to be singled out for vengeance. He gave himself utterly to his country. Looking back now, we can realize how momentous was his decision. It is doubtful if any other man could have carried the weary struggle through to its successful close.

Before the new commander could reach Boston, a second and more serious contest had been fought there. This was the Battle of Bunker Hill. Bunker Hill, or that portion of it now called Breed's Hill, is a height overlooking Boston from the north. About twelve hundred of the American militia under Colonel Prescott occupied and began to fortify it. This bold defiance was like a challenge to battle, and General Gage, whose force had been increased to ten thousand troops, promptly despatched three thousand to storm the hill and chastise the presumptuous Americans. Prescott held his ground behind the half-finished embankment. His men had very little powder, and he bade them hold their fire until they could see the whites of their enemies' eyes.

It was like a spectacle set in some vast arena. As the well-trained British regiments advanced with martial ardor, their gorgeous regimentals flashing in the sunlight, they were watched by the seamen on the ships in the harbor, by their comrades under General Gage, by the bulk of the American army far away upon the mainland, and by every citizen of Boston who could find a place along its wharves or on its distant roofs.

They were watched, too, by the grim minute men at the summit of the hill, who let them come close, closer still. There must be no powder wasted! At last came Prescott's sharp command to fire, and the old flintlock muskets spoke. Probably no trained European troops could have discharged so deadly a volley. These Americans were many of them practised marksmen, and they fought with brain as well as hand, a thing no European common soldiers had learned to do. The British lines were swept away by whole companies. The Britons staggered; they hesitated. Yet with splendid courage they rallied, and, urged on by their officers, advanced a second time, nearer than before. Again the terrible American volley thundered forth, and this time as the smoke slowly lifted, there could be no mistake, the Britons were in full flight down the hill.

It was late in the afternoon before their officers succeeded in rallying them for a third charge. This time it was successful. It was not met with the same deadly fire, for the powder of the Americans was exhausted. Still they scorned to flee, and with naught but clubbed muskets awaited the British bayonets. The struggle on the summit was short. Weapons as well as numbers were too unequal. The Americans fled after losing over four hundred of their little force. The loss of the British in their three charges had been more than a thousand men.

Nominally Bunker Hill was an English victory; but every one saw that if the colonists continued to fight as well and shoot as straight, they must conquer in the end. Great was the rejoicing throughout America. Washington heard the news as he was hurrying toward Boston. "Did our militia

stand fire?" he asked eagerly. "Then, thank God, the victory of America is assured!"

King George could not understand how this untrained rebel rabble could keep ten thousand of his best troops shut up in Boston, and he removed General Gage and appointed in his stead Sir William Howe, who had led the British at Bunker Hill. But so ably did Washington extend his lines around the besieged city, that Howe could do no more than his predecessor. Through all the fall and winter the two armies lay watching, each waiting for the other.

Only one other military operation occurred in 1775. This was the invasion of Canada by a very small force under General Montgomery. Its only chance of success lay in the hope that the Canadians might rise and join it, but they failed to do so. Several fortresses were captured, and Montreal itself was occupied by the Americans. Then, with scarce seven hundred men, Montgomery undertook the mad scheme of storming Quebec. Success would have ranked the leader with earth's most honored heroes; but his plans had been betrayed, the English were expecting him, and his charge was met by a volley of grapeshot, before which Montgomery himself was the first to fall. Benedict Arnold, his second in command, was badly wounded, and the little remnant of the heroic band had to flee from Canada.

At first the colonists had only hoped to keep the British from bursting out of Boston and devastating the country. This being accomplished, they now began to demand more, and urged that the foe should be driven from the city altogether. The great cannon captured at Ticonderoga were dragged through the wilderness to Boston; and in March, Washington, by a sudden movement, seized Dorchester Heights, to the south of Boston, whence the huge guns could bombard the city. Seeing himself thus overreached and at the mercy of the enemy, General Howe declined to "pay a Bunker Hill price" for the entrenchment rising at Dorchester. He offered to leave Boston, and did so with all his ships and troops, and such of the loyalist inhabitants as dared not stay to meet the fury of the returning patriots (March 17, 1776).

The colonial cause was thus brought to the height of its success; and, urged on by the entire country, Congress began to talk of independence. Compromise was no longer possible, for King George on his side grew daily more bent on punishing the colonies. He found it difficult to get Englishmen to enlist for the war, so he secured about twenty thousand German troops, "Hessians," purchasing the helpless men from their scoundrelly rulers, like so many cattle at so much per head. The news that these Hessians had been hired to slay them hardened the hearts of Americans against England, perhaps more than anything else. Wavering members of Congress became firm, and on July 4,

1776, our representatives unanimously passed the Declaration of Independence.

It was drawn up by Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman, and William Livingstone, and signed by every member of the Congress, with Hancock, the president, at their head.

"We must all hang together now," said one member anxiously.

"Yes," supplemented Franklin cheerfully, "or we shall all hang separately." He had been in England, had faced the fury of the King's friends, and he knew of what he spoke.

The passage of the Declaration was received with tremendous enthusiasm throughout the country. With the news of it the North heard also of another success. On June 28 a large British fleet had tried to capture Charleston in South Carolina, but had been repulsed with heavy loss by only four hundred men under Colonel Moultrie.

Now, however, came a series of disasters. England had at last awakened to the magnitude of the task she had undertaken. She soon had forty thousand well-disciplined troops in America; and the real war, stern, grim, and terrible, began. General Howe, who had sailed with his forces to Canada, returned heavily reinforced and attacked New York. An American army of defence gathered on Long Island under General Putnam; but it was surprised and defeated in the battle of Long Island. Putnam lost two thousand men, and his entire force was threatened with capture. Washington, however, took it in hand and saved the remnant by a masterly retreat. He dared not risk another battle, and abandoned New York to Howe. The British entered the city September 14, 1776, and held it till the close of the war.

The American militia were badly demoralized by their first defeat. Everything was in doubt and confusion, and a young patriot officer, Nathan Hale, offered to secure the information about Howe's movements which Washington so much needed. Disguised as a schoolmaster, Hale entered the British lines, was caught, and, in accordance with the military law, was hanged as a spy. As he stood with the rope about his neck, abused and browbeaten by his brutal captors, he answered them in those noble words: "My only regret is that I have but one life to give for my country."

Others were less loyal. A traitor betrayed Fort Washington, which the Americans had erected on the highlands north of New York City. It was stormed by surprise, and its entire garrison of nearly three thousand men were either slain or captured (November 16, 1776).

Flushed with triumph, General Howe sent his second in command, Lord Cornwallis, to capture Washington and his diminished forces, and end the war. Washington's second in command, General Lee, betrayed him and managed for

a time to deprive him of half his little army. With the remnant, Washington fled across New Jersey, so closely pursued that often as his men left one end of a town, their foes entered the other. At last he escaped across the Delaware River into Pennsylvania and seized all the boats at hand, to prevent Cornwallis from following.

The cause of America seemed lost indeed. Scarce three thousand exhausted and defeated troops still clung to Washington's support. Congress, at the near approach of the British, fled from Philadelphia to Baltimore. It had no funds and no way to raise them, except by issuing paper money, promises to pay, which it might never be able to fulfil. This it poured forth in quantities, until every one laughed at the "continental" money, and \$2,000 of it was needed to buy a suit of clothes. When folks wanted to express utter contempt for anything, they declared it was "not worth a continental."

With no other resources than these, how could Congress get supplies for even the shadow of an army under Washington? It was midwinter, but his troops were in rags, unpaid, almost starving. As they retreated across New Jersey, the country people, cowed and bewildered by the sudden turn of events, fled from them and sought to secure their own safety by crowding humbly to the British camp. Washington himself discussed with his officers the probability of their having to retreat beyond the Alleghany Mountains, and defend themselves in the wilderness.

Two things saved the American cause. One, and its importance must not be underrated, was the savagery of the invading army. War is ever a hideous thing, but perhaps its most unspeakable bestiality is only revealed when a prostrate land lies at the mercy of ignorant foreigners, who cannot even parley in their victims' language. Had it been possible to keep the hired Hessians in restraint during their occupation of New Jersey, the State might never have been recovered to the patriot cause. But the strangers were allowed free rein, and their excesses were such as no free people could endure. Fierce, reckless little uprisings began to flare all over the State; and from that time the anger of the Jerseymen against England grew hotter than ever that of Massachusetts had been.

The other and even greater bulwark of our strength lay in the high spirit of our leaders, whom misfortune could not crush. In the very depths of defeat, Congress proclaimed that no concession to Great Britain was longer possible, and it conferred on Washington an authority which made him almost a Dictator. The defence of America was thus placed solely in his hands, and gloriously did he prove himself worthy of the trust.

So great does our national hero appear in other respects, that his countrymen have been perhaps inclined to overlook his military skill. The aged Fred-

erick the Great of Prussia, himself the foremost general of the century, after studying the ten days' campaign that Washington now carried through, declared that it had never been surpassed in military brilliancy.

The British, unable to cross the Delaware, established themselves in comfortable quarters in New Jersey. One of the Hessian generals, suggesting their insecurity, was told by the over-confident English, that New Jersey might now be kept in order by a corporal's guard. Washington did not think so. By great exertions his officers had raised some fifteen hundred volunteers in Pennsylvania; and with the pick of these and his own ragged followers, twenty-five hundred in all, Washington, on Christmas night, 1776, made his famous passage of the Delaware. Crossing through the floating ice, he suddenly assailed a force of Hessians at Trenton. They were utterly unprepared, deep in a Christmas carousal, and made scarcely any defence. Nearly a thousand were taken prisoners, and, loaded with captured supplies, Washington withdrew again across the river.

While the astonished Cornwallis was hastily gathering his scattered troops, Washington and his men appeared once more in Trenton. Overwhelming forces of the British hurried to confront them; the Delaware became so filled with ice that its further passage seemed impossible. "I have the old fox at last," cried Cornwallis, and went to bed on the night of January 2, 1777, secure in that belief. During the darkness Washington and his army slipped away, leaving their camp fires burning to deceive the enemy. The next morning they were near Princeton, ten miles away, and there attacked Cornwallis' rear guard. Washington led his men in person, and once more stood in such peril as when the Indians chose him as their foremost target at Braddock's disaster. Once more by the merciful wisdom of Heaven he escaped unhurt. The British were completely defeated, Cornwallis' line of communication with New York was broken, and his stores were captured.

Washington, fairly equipped now with the necessaries of war, withdrew to the heights of Morristown, whence he could attack any supplies that were passing; and Cornwallis, instead of advancing to the capture of Philadelphia, found himself confronted with the alternative of retreating to New York or attempting a winter siege of his skilful and daring antagonist. He chose the former course and abandoned almost the whole of New Jersey.

In the spring of 1777, King George insisted that more vigorous efforts should be put forth to conquer the rebellious colonies. Since the Middle States had proved least devoted to the American cause, it was planned to split America in two, by taking possession of the entire Hudson valley. New England, thus isolated from the South, could be crushed at leisure. Months were

spent in preparation, and then a strong army left Canada under General Burgoyne, and advanced down Lake Champlain.

The New York and New England militia hastily gathered to oppose the invasion. Washington sent to their assistance such troops as he dared spare, and the command was in the hands of the able and patriotic General Schuyler. This officer's first object was to delay Burgoyne's advance until the militia had time to assemble, and so ably did he perform his task by breaking bridges, felling trees across the road, and once by a dam turning a whole river into it, that Burgoyne was twenty days getting from the foot of Lake Champlain to Fort Edward on the Hudson, a distance of barely as many miles.

The British had brought many Canadian Indians as their allies, and the barbarity of the redmen soon made the north country as bitter as New Jersey had become. One after another of the expeditions which Burgoyne sent out to gather supplies and tory recruits, was either repelled or completely cut off. At last, with less than seven thousand men remaining, he came to a standstill at Saratoga. His southward way was blocked by an army of militia already far outnumbering his own forces, and growing larger every day. It was composed of men of the same resolute stamp as had fought at Bunker Hill.

At this juncture, Congress unwisely picked out a favorite of its own, General Horatio Gates, and sent him to supersede Schuyler. Fortunately the real work of defeating Burgoyne had been already accomplished, and even Gates, a weak and incompetent officer, if not a coward, could no longer make a failure of the campaign. It was a case where an army commanded its general. Twice Burgoyne attempted to force his way onward, and neither time did Gates appear on the field of battle. He even arrested his second in command, General Benedict Arnold, lest the latter should "do something rash." Arnold evaded the arrest long enough to lead one splendid charge in the second battle of Saratoga, but mainly it was the men themselves and the subordinate officers who repelled the Britons by their own unaided courage, without military leadership.

Burgoyne, unable to break through their lines, found himself surrounded. His supplies were cut off, no help reached him from New York, and at length, on October 17, 1777, his whole starving army surrendered as prisoners of war.

The reason no troops marched northward from New York to join Burgoyne was that Howe, early in the year, sent most of the forces from there to capture Philadelphia. Washington's skill prevented them from taking the direct route across New Jersey, and after wasting much valuable time on the effort, they went by water through Chesapeake Bay. The feeble army of Washington proved this time unable to check them. He risked a battle at Brandywine Creek, but was defeated, and Philadelphia fell.

The American leader then planned a dashing attack upon the British troops

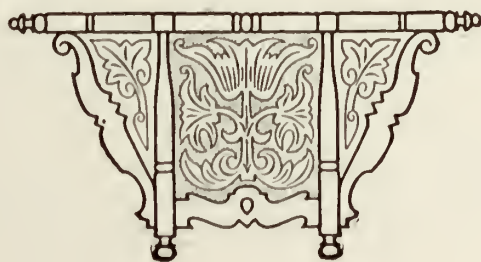
encamped near the city, at Germantown. Several British regiments were put to flight, but blundering in a heavy fog, two American detachments fired on each other, and our troops fell back in a confusion equal to that of their enemies. Washington did, however, so hamper and delay every movement of the English that Howe kept drawing reinforcements from New York, and there were not sufficient troops there to advance up the Hudson until October. Then a small force started to Burgoyne's relief; but it was too late, his army had surrendered.

It would be difficult to overstate the astonishment in England at this capture of an entire British army, generals, flags, cannon, supplies, and all. No such catastrophe had befallen their arms for centuries. Even King George wrote to his prime minister, Lord North: "The time may come when it will be wise to abandon all North America but Canada, Nova Scotia, and the Floridas." Powerful, indeed, must have been the lightning flash which had so illumined that stubborn brain.

The effect was still greater upon our friends. Benjamin Franklin had been in France for over a year, endeavoring to persuade that country to lend us aid. Much, however, as France desired to avenge herself upon England, her government had hesitated over recognizing us and thus again embroiling their country with Great Britain. The surrender of Burgoyne, following upon Washington's brilliant Trenton campaign, convinced France that the colonies could defend themselves. From this followed the deduction that they were also valuable allies; and on February 6, 1778, France and the "United States of America" entered into an alliance of war against Great Britain.

When that news reached England on top of the Burgoyne disaster, the friends of King George abandoned their defiant attitude in haste, and Parliament, with scarce a dissenting voice, despatched envoys to America to offer the colonies freedom from taxation, representation in Parliament if they wished it—everything, in short, that they had ever asked for—except Independence.

Congress even before it knew of the French alliance, rejected these overtures. Our leaders insisted that America would never abandon the position which she had taken among the independent nations of the earth.



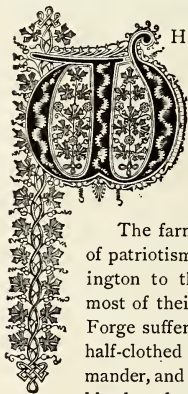


THE "BONHOMME RICHARD" AND THE "SERAPIS"

Chapter XII

THE REVOLUTION—FRENCH AID AND VICTORY

[*Authorities*: Sabine, "Loyalists of the American Revolution"; Fisher, "The True History of the Revolution"; Maclay, "History of the United States Navy"; Greene, "General Greene"; Doune, "Correspondence of George III."]



WHILE important negotiations were thus occupying the winter of 1777-78, Washington and his little army were suffering pitiably at Valley Forge in Pennsylvania. The previous winter at Morristown they had been fairly well supplied, but now Congress was in such straits for money that it could do nothing; and the foe, securely posted around captured Philadelphia, offered no such opportunities as at Trenton and Princeton.

The farmers of Pennsylvania had not yet reached such a height of patriotism as to prefer the worthless "continental" money of Washington to the yellow gold of the British troops, and they carried most of their produce to Philadelphia, while the Americans at Valley Forge suffered almost the pangs of starvation. But these shivering, half-clothed patriots were true heroes now, worthy of their great commander, and they endured with a patience which made his great heart bleed, and called forth such letters to Congress and such stern orders to the country people around, as somehow brought in food enough to keep the American troops alive.

While thus battling for his men, Washington had to face yet another danger. The friends of General Gates in Congress, not satisfied with having won him the credit of Burgoyne's surrender, plotted to have him supersede

Washington as the American Commander-in-chief. For this purpose they viciously assailed our great chieftain, imputing to his mismanagement every disaster the American cause had endured. Luckily, however, the scheme was exposed, and in the end brought shame only upon its authors. With the nation at large, Washington's honor stood too high to be imperilled.

Foreign officers began to join us. The Prussian general, Baron Steuben, trained our troops at Valley Forge, until their skill and discipline were not inferior to that of the British regulars. From France, first of his countrymen to rally to Freedom's cause, came the famous Lafayette. Without waiting for his country's alliance, this ardent young hero fitted out a ship at his own expense and joined our army during the campaign around Philadelphia. Washington made him his chief aide at Valley Forge, and a firm and lasting friendship sprang up between the two noble men.

This was the last winter during which our troops underwent such intense suffering. With spring came the French alliance, and one most valuable thing which this brought us was the money we so sorely needed. It brought us also the assistance of a fleet to match against the British vessels. Thus the whole war in this, its second period, assumes a different aspect.

Many Englishmen thought that their general, Howe, had never really tried to overcome the Americans. Severer measures were insisted upon, and Howe at his own request was recalled to England. His successor, Sir Henry Clinton, decided to reunite his divided forces, and, abandoning Philadelphia, he retreated across New Jersey to New York. Washington, hastily following him, attacked his rearguard at Monmouth, hoping to capture its stores. The assault failed, owing to the movements of General Charles Lee, the leader who had abandoned Washington on the retreat from New York. This man was the first great traitor to the American cause; but he escaped general obloquy, the full infamy of his connection with the British not being made plain until a letter from him to Howe was unearthed in recent years.

There were no further important movements in 1778. A powerful French fleet did indeed arrive upon our coast under Admiral D'Estaing, but ill fortune seemed to attend it from the start, and its only service lay in its restraining influence upon the British.

The Iroquois Indians, who had been roused by Burgoyne, were now joined by Tories more savage than themselves, and committed cruel massacres upon the frontiers of New York and Pennsylvania, especially at Wyoming and Cherry Valley. In 1779 General Sullivan was sent to punish the Indians. He defeated them completely and destroyed their homes and crops all through central New York, so that many perished of hunger. The Iroquois never recovered from this blow; their power was ended.

It was also in 1779 that General Wayne, "Mad Anthony," made himself famous by his successful storming of Stony Point on the Hudson. At the head of but a few hundred men with unloaded muskets, he crept unperceived close to the works, and then carried them at the point of the bayonet. Seventeen of the twenty men in the "forlorn hope" that headed his attack were slain. The main column, however, suffered little loss, and the garrison of nearly six hundred men was captured, together with large quantities of valuable military stores.

This was the last serious battle in the North. The war languished, for England had her hands full abroad. All Europe had long been offended by her overweening arrogance, and her foes eagerly seized this opportunity of her unexpected difficulties to repay old injuries. Spain joined France and America against her, and in 1780 Holland was added to the hostile alliance. Under these circumstances England made no further efforts at actual conquest in the regions where she had been so sharply rebuffed. Her avowed policy toward the colonies became merely to harry and harass them, so that they should be "of as little avail as possible to their new connections." Marauding expeditions plundered and burned the towns along the coast, but the only city permanently occupied was New York.

Some retaliation for this cruel form of warfare was inflicted by the American privateers. As early as 1775, Congress had made efforts to form a navy, and while this never amounted to anything in number of ships, a large auxiliary force of privateers was fitted out by individual patriotism or cupidity to prey upon British commerce. In the year of 1779, over three hundred of England's merchant ships were captured or destroyed, and her trade in Western waters was ruined. In this year also Paul Jones made his famous fight against the "Serapis."

Commodore John Paul Jones, by splendid courage and seamanship, had won his way to the head of our infant navy. He resolved to avenge upon the English some of the damage they had been wantonly inflicting upon our unprotected shores. Through the entire year of 1778 he ranged along the British coast, burning and plundering, though in but feeble imitation of the cruel English ravages here. It seemed to the British, however, quite a different case, and they vowed that the "pirate," as they called Jones, should be hanged as soon as he was caught. He succeeded in eluding their utmost efforts, defeated a sloop-of-war stronger than his own tiny ship, and brought his prize to France, where he was received with high honor. In 1779 he was given command of a little squadron, which was mainly French, only his flagship, the "Bonhomme Richard," having an American crew. With this following, he set out once more to teach England that two could play at the game of plundering.

After a successful cruise he fell in with a British convoy, at the head of which was the "Serapis," a man-of-war about equalling the "Bonhomme Richard" in size and the number of her crew. The two vessels instantly singled each other out as antagonists, while lesser contests went on around them.

The "Serapis" was one of the best fitted ships in the English navy; Jones' vessel was an old hulk hastily patched up. Her heaviest guns burst at the first fire and reduced her almost to a wreck. Nevertheless, the fight continued for four hours. The "Serapis" came too near her disabled antagonist, and Jones himself lashed the two ships together, so that the sailing abilities of the enemy were lost, and the contest was fought out side by side. One of the French ships approached, but, instead of attacking the foe, her commander, actuated by jealousy of Jones, deliberately fired volley after volley into the helpless American vessel. Then he sailed away. "Do you surrender?" cried the English captain, Pearson. "I have not yet begun to fight," responded our unconquerable hero.

Over a hundred British prisoners from various prizes were on board the sinking "Richard," and these, their prison smashed to pieces, came pouring up to the decks. A step, and they might have been in safety on the "Serapis"! But Jones cried out that the enemy was sinking, and set the prisoners to man the pumps of his own vessel as their only chance of life. Pistol in hand, he kept them at the work while his own men fought the ship. At last, since Jones would not surrender, Pearson did. The "Bonhomme Richard" was so shattered that she sank, and Jones returned to France in command of the almost equally battered English ship. Pearson was made a knight by the English Government for his long and heroic defence of the "Serapis." "He deserves it," said Jones heartily; "and if I meet him again, I'll make a lord of him." It would be hard to conceive a more glorious opening for the proud records of our navy!

Meanwhile, England, having tested the American power of resistance in New England and in the Middle States, resolved to see what could be done in the South, where the tory element was strong. In 1779, Georgia was overrun without much resistance, and was practically reclaimed as a British province. A vigorous attempt to recapture Savannah was made by French and Americans combined, but it ended in a disastrous repulse. In 1780, South Carolina was also lost to the patriot cause. General Clinton besieged Charleston with so overwhelming a force that its commander, General Lincoln, had to surrender with five thousand men. Clinton then returned to New York and left Lord Cornwallis in command in the South. By his active and well-conducted expeditions, Cornwallis soon had all South Carolina under his control, and he threatened to hang as rebels all who offered any further opposition.

The remnant of the patriots were compelled to adopt a mere guerrilla warfare. General Francis Marion and others almost equally noted kept their little bands hidden in the impenetrable swamps. From these depths they made sudden, dashing raids upon the English, and were away again before a sufficient force could gather against them. So successful were they that Cornwallis was nonplussed. He desired to advance into North Carolina and add another captured State to his triumph, but he dared not leave Marion behind.

At this juncture, Congress came to the aid of Cornwallis by appointing its old friend General Gates to take command in the South and retrieve the falling cause. The captor of Burgoyne found in North Carolina a small force of regular troops, whom Washington had sent thither. The local militia joined these, and, as rash now as he had once been timid, Gates rushed his little army forward into South Carolina. When the men reached Camden, sick, hungry, and exhausted from long marching, he hurled them against Cornwallis' more numerous and well-conditioned troops. The weary patriots fought desperately, but the contest was hopeless. Gates himself was the first to see this, and he led the flight of the Carolina militia from the field. Being the best mounted, he rode fastest, continued his flight to the very borders of Virginia, and never saw the bulk of his army again. The battle of Camden ended his extraordinary military career.

The autumn of 1780 was a period of depression in America. Cornwallis seemed advancing irresistibly in the South. In the North, Washington held the British in check, but could not prevent their ravaging exposed points along the coast; and the policy of thus slowly wearing out America's resources seemed to promise success.

This was also the time of Arnold's treason. Benedict Arnold, one of our most brilliant generals, the hero of Quebec and of Saratoga, beloved by our people, was harshly treated by Congress, and in revenge attempted to betray West Point into the hands of the British. The command of this important stronghold would have enabled them to control the Hudson valley and divide the colonies in two, as they had planned to do by Burgoyne's ill-fated expedition. So Arnold was given every encouragement in his treason, and promised the rank of an English general. Fortunately, the messenger, Major André, sent to arrange the betrayal, was intercepted. He was hanged as a spy, and Arnold fled to the protection of his new friends.

The winter of 1780 proved very severe, and once more the American troops had to endure great privations. Some even mutinied and marched to where Congress was in session, to demand pay or at least food and clothing. The English general, Clinton, delighted at this news, sent emissaries to the mutineers promising to pay them all and more than they said was due them, if they

would only put themselves under his protection in New York. But, though mutinous, the men were patriots, and they promptly handed their tempters over to Washington as spies. They refused even to accept the usual reward for a spy's capture, declaring that they only wanted justice. Their grievances were redressed.

Unfortunately, their success tempted other regiments to imitate them. A general upheaval seemed imminent, but Washington resolutely checked it by executing two of the leaders in the second revolt. Quiet was restored, and the troops returned to their former heroic endurance.

The year of our final triumph, 1781, opened still more gloomily—the darkness before the dawn. A force of twenty-five hundred British, sent out from New York under the traitor Arnold, landed in Virginia early in January, and ravaged far and wide across the unfortunate State. The little bands of militia which attempted to stop them, were easily dispersed, and the enemy established themselves on the seacoast, to make there a permanent base, such as they already held at Savannah and Charleston. It appeared as if Virginia also must be lost to the American cause.

Meanwhile, General Greene, Washington's ablest lieutenant, had superseded the defeated Gates in the general command of the South. No reinforcements could be sent him, and it did not seem as though even genius could accomplish much with the few scattered remnants of a defeated army, to oppose to the triumphant veterans of Lord Cornwallis.

One gleam of light had already come to the despairing Southerners late in the fall of 1780, even before Greene assumed command. One of Cornwallis' ablest commanders, Colonel Ferguson, was defeated at King's Mountain by a band of North Carolina frontiersmen, who had come down from the Tennessee Mountains to aid their countrymen. The accurate shooting of these sturdy pioneers proved more than a match for the bayonets of the British, and Colonel Ferguson's entire force of over a thousand men were either slain or captured.

This, however, was a mere drop in the bucket; and, early in 1781, Lord Cornwallis determined to advance his main force into North Carolina. He meant to reduce that State to the same exhausted submission as he had its southern neighbors. In the hope of preventing this, Greene dispatched a small force under General Morgan into South Carolina to distract the British attention. Cornwallis sent Colonel Tarleton, the most dashing, most celebrated, and cruellest of English cavalry leaders, against Morgan. But Morgan's men were of the same type as those who had fought at King's Mountain. Though fewer in number than Tarleton's band, they faced him boldly at Cowpens (January 17, 1781). Three hundred of the British were killed or wounded, and over

five hundred taken prisoner. Only a small force of cavalry succeeded in escaping with Tarleton from the fatal field.

Then began one of the most remarkable retreats of which history has record. It was the dead of winter and marching was difficult; but Cornwallis, furious at this second defeat of his finest troops, hurried with his whole army to crush Morgan and recapture the British prisoners. Morgan, anticipating the enemy's move, retreated toward North Carolina. Each army strained every nerve. The Americans, encumbered by their unwilling prisoners, proved the slower of the two. Almost exhausted, they reached the banks of the Catawba River, when it was so swollen by the rains that its passage was very perilous. But Cornwallis was close behind, so cross they did; and the last boatloads had scarce pushed out from the shore when the swift-coming British van stood upon the spot they had deserted.

By this time the river ran so furiously that it was two days before Cornwallis could pass it. The Americans, feeling as though they had been saved by the direct interposition of Heaven, hurried rapidly northward. Soon the resolute Cornwallis was again upon their heels. Both armies rushed for the next large river, the Yadkin, and once more the Americans crossed its rising torrent just in time. Cornwallis, thundering close behind, found it impassable.

General Greene had by now joined Morgan's little band with the rest of the American army, so that if they must fight they would be all together. Still, however, they were too few to meet the foe, and the retreat was continued. Cornwallis, baffled, furious, but resolute as ever, pressed on in pursuit across the entire State of North Carolina. He kept now toward the sources of the rainfed rivers, where they were more easily forded, hoping that Greene might be stopped as the English had been. American ingenuity and daring found a way to cross every stream. Yet Cornwallis's unencumbered troops reached ever nearer and nearer to their prey. The Dan River in Southern Virginia was now Greene's only hope, and here, for the third time, he was successful. His hard-pressed troops were scarce across the raging, rising waters, when Cornwallis stood upon the southern bank.

He had advanced so fast and far that his supplies could not reach him. His men, splendid fellows though they were, could go no farther. They were as exhausted as the Americans, and would soon be as ragged; so their commander, perforce, abandoned the prey upon whose capture he had so surely counted. This remarkable flight and pursuit lasted for close upon a month, both armies traversing over two hundred miles of the wildest, most rugged, and most barren territory. Their route was at times almost impassable from mud, at times so hard frozen that the barefooted Americans left blood at every step. In its effect, the flight was an American victory; for had Greene's little force been

crushed, the last hope of successful resistance in the South would have disappeared. Now, as Cornwallis withdrew toward the seacoast, the country folk of both North Carolina and Virginia flocked to Greene's standard.

In a few days he resolutely recrossed the Dan River, and with his increased forces advanced against Cornwallis. The two armies met at Guilford Courthouse, and fought a bloody but indecisive battle. Most of Greene's newly joined militia found war little to their taste, and fled precipitously. His regular troops then retreated slowly and in good order. The British claimed the victory, but Cornwallis frankly admitted to his home government that his losses had been so heavy that a few more such successes would leave him without an army. He continued his retreat toward the seacoast, and the militia returned to Greene's standard, who from his defeat reaped all the fruits of a victory.

Cornwallis now determined on the bold plan of joining the English troops who were ravaging Virginia under Arnold. He probably expected Greene to follow him, but the American adopted the shrewder expedient of leaving Virginia to the enemy, while he himself marched southward through the Carolinas. By this means he recovered both of these States to the American cause. The garrisons which Cornwallis had left at various important points, were more than once able to defeat Greene's entire force, but so ably did he handle the situation that defeat continued to have for him the same results as victory gives other men. One by one the British garrisons were driven out or captured, until before the close of the year their forces were again confined to the single strong city of Charleston. The remainder of the Carolinas were in Greene's hands, and more firmly attached than ever to the cause of Independence. This whole remarkable campaign, wherein a more numerous and constantly victorious foe was made to work out its own complete defeat, must certainly rank among the marvels of military art.

The main seat of the war had shifted with Cornwallis to Virginia. General Arnold went back to New York, but his troops and ships, combined with some further reinforcements, swelled Cornwallis' effective force to about eight thousand soldiers and two thousand sailors. Lafayette had been sent with a small band of American regulars to oppose him, but these were totally inadequate to the purpose.

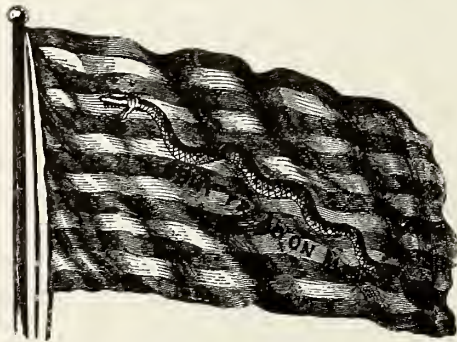
It was now that Washington planned his great final coup. A powerful French fleet was known to be on its way to the American coast, and Washington by threatening New York convinced Clinton, the English commander there, that he was to be attacked. In his anxiety, Clinton sent Cornwallis word to gather all the Virginia troops upon the Yorktown peninsula, entrench his lines, and send such regiments as could be spared, to aid in the defence of New York. Cornwallis obeyed orders to the extent of moving his troops to

Yorktown, but concluded that none at all could be detached from his own service.

The expected French fleet arrived off Virginia instead of New York, and landed about three thousand troops, who, uniting with Lafayette, advanced toward Yorktown. At the same time Washington moved hither and thither around New York, still further bewildering Clinton, and then suddenly was off for Yorktown with all his forces. He was gone a week before Clinton realized it, and by that time it was too late to follow.

Thus Cornwallis was shut up in Yorktown by an army probably double his own, and the French fleet prevented his escape by sea. It was late in September before all the troops of the allies reached Yorktown, but then the siege progressed rapidly. French and Americans vied with each other in storming Cornwallis' outlying fortifications. He tried to force his way through their tightening lines, but was repelled. His means of resistance were exhausted, and on October 19, 1781, he surrendered himself and his entire army to Washington as prisoners of war.

A second British army even stronger than Burgoyne's had thus been conquered by the despised Americans, and the war was at an end. The English Government did not immediately realize this, King George declaring he would never yield. But the English people insisted that the ill-advised and unfortunate contest should close. In 1782 commissioners came again from England as they had in 1778, but this time they were authorized to acknowledge our Independence. A "peace ball" was celebrated in Virginia in honor of the French allies who had done so much to aid us, and the final treaty was signed at Paris, September 3, 1783. On November 25, of that year, the last of the British troops evacuated New York City, and the forces under Washington entered it in triumph. The thirteen united States of America were fully established and recognized as independent nations.



ONE OF THE EARLY FLAGS

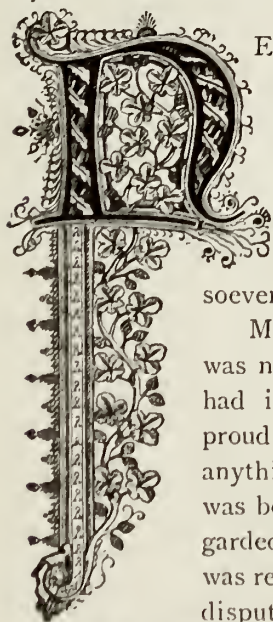


SHAY'S REBELLION

Chapter XIII

THE BUILDING OF OUR NATION

[*Authorities:* Von Holst, "Constitutional History of the United States"; Curtis, "History of the Constitution"; Hart, "Formation of the Union"; "The Federalist"; Gilpin, "Papers of James Madison"; Thomas Jefferson, "Notes on Virginia"; Bancroft, "History of the Constitution"; Bryce, "American Commonwealth."]



NEVER, perhaps, has a nation begun its career under conditions so unfavorable, so deplorable, as faced the thirteen American States at the close of the British war. The whole country had been impoverished, almost ruined, by the repeated British raids. The lower class of people, finding that their Government could not protect them, had lost respect for it, and indeed for all law of whatsoever kind.

Moreover, it must be remembered that the United States was not then a single and well-loved country. Each colony had in 1776 become a tiny independent nation, immensely proud of its separate existence and individuality, jealous of anything that might interfere with this. A man's patriotism was bounded by the narrow limits of his own colony. He regarded the others with friendly and perhaps cordial interest, but was ready enough to quarrel with them on occasion. Interstate disputes sometimes reached almost to the point of war.

At the close of the Revolution, the thirteen States were leagued together under the Articles of Confederation, which at the urgency of Congress they had adopted in 1781. But the new Congress elected under these Articles was as powerless as the former one. The jealous States refused it all authority to

bind their individual actions. This lack of power to enforce its commands had been the great difficulty confronting Congress throughout the war. It ordered; the States obeyed if they pleased, refusing more often than they complied.

Congress had thus grown ever weaker. Its promises could not be trusted; its authority was despised. To carry on the war it had been compelled to contract enormous debts. Only for the financial ability and generosity of Robert Morris, once the richest man in the country but beggared in its service, the Revolution must have collapsed long before its successful issue. Money was obtained partly by loans from foreign nations, partly by the "continental" paper money or promises to pay, which Congress so freely issued.

The individual States refused to assume these debts; they had heavy financial burdens of their own. Even after agreeing to the Confederation, they would scarce pay the requisitions by which Congress called on them for money to meet its current expenses. The general Government was thus bankrupt and dishonored.

Congress got rid of the continental notes by the simple expedient of flatly declaring them worthless and refusing to redeem them. This seemingly dishonorable act did not, however, inflict much serious suffering or even arouse protest. The notes, as we have seen, had already sunk to a mere nominal value, and those who held them when they were finally repudiated were seldom the original owners, and had not in most cases given any considerable value for them. The foreign debts could not be so easily dismissed, and they continued as an ever-darkening shadow through all the period of the Confederation.

A yet more serious difficulty lay with the army. The war being over, what was to be done with the regular forces? Could these men be turned out ragged and penniless, to make their way back as best they could to homes perhaps ruined, to districts where they might find no employment or only the very lowest? The soldiers themselves had no idea of submitting to such a dismissal. They entreated Washington, their tried leader and trusted friend, to protect them, to secure them their just money dues. They even declared that America would be safest as a monarchy, and offered to make Washington a king.

There seems little doubt that had the great patriot so willed, he could have been the first American monarch, but he steadfastly refused. "If I am not deceived in the knowledge of myself," he told his entreaters, "you could not have found a person to whom your schemes could be more disagreeable." He did, nevertheless, insist on Congress finding money for the men, and they finally dispersed. Washington bade adieu to the army, at the close of November, 1783, and set the final seal upon his splendid patriotism by returning



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